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ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE NOTED; QUANTITY UP, QUALITY DOWN IN FARM MACHINERY

The sown area in Soviet agriculture has increased. In 1948, it was 12.5 million hectares greater than in 1947; in 1949, it is 6 million hectares greater than in 1948.

A comparison of the first half of 1949 with the same period of 1948 shows that the number of trucks and tractors in agriculture was 1½ times greater in 1949, the number of combines was 74 percent greater, machine tractor stations carried out agricultural operations on 16 million more hectares, and the average yield per hectare was above the prewar level.

The average productivity of a 15-horsepower tractor, which formerly did not exceed 4 - 5 hectares, rose 20 percent during spring sowing of the current year. On the Temizhbekskiy Sovkhoz in the Kuban', a tractor driver sowed 918 hectares in 45 days, or more than 20 hectares per day compared with the required norm of 12 hectares. The Kray Committee of the Stavropol' Sovkhoz Workers Trade Union used its experience as a guide for all the sovkhozes in the kray. Unfortunately, other oblast trade union committees did not lift a finger to spread this experience among their tractor operators.

The trade unions have done a remarkable job in enlightening the workers, employees, and kolkhoz and sovkhoz members in regard to the problems of cattle-raising. For instance, 485 meetings were held in Rostov Oblast; they were attended by more than 22,000 workers. As a result, more than 11,000 milkers, calf tenders, shepherds, henwives, cowherds, and others revised their previously assumed obligations upwards.

The results of the competition in cattle-raising are already apparent. The average milk yield per grazing cow on the sovkhozes as 1,021 kilograms on 1 July 1949 as against 911 kilograms on the same date in 1948. The average weight of a hog delivered for slaughter was 103 kilograms as against 85 kilograms last year.

The number of tractor plows and shallow plows produced in 1948 was 3 times that of 1947; tractor seeders, 2 times, trailer combines, almost 5 times. In the second quarter of 1949, the number of tractors produced was 173 percent of the number produced in the same period in 1948; grain combines, 200 percent of threshers, 182 percent. At present, powerful S-80 tractors, self-propelled combines, and electric tractors operate in the kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields. The serial production of 55 new types of improved machines, for all branches of agriculture, has been mastered.

However, in 1948, agriculture failed to receive its complement of machinery, including a considerable number of self-propelled combines, seeders, and cultivators, through the fault of a number of plants. In the first half of 1949, there was also a shortage of seeders and tree-planting machines. The responsibility for such lagging rests with both the management of machine-building plants and the corresponding trade unions. Soviet machine-building engineers create the most perfect mechanisms in the world, but the quality of the products turned out by the plants leave much to be desired.

In this connection, the Central Committee of the Agricultural Machine-Building Trade Union carried out a general inspection of the quality of production. It was established that at the October Revolution Plant, the low quality was due to the lack of skilled personnel in the inspection division. In another plant, 30 percent of the parts of self-propelled combines were turned out without using dies, special devices, or cutting tools. The Central Committee helped the management and workers to eliminate these shortcomings. Attention was given to the organization of "excellent quality" brigades. Scores of the latter were organized in the Lyubertsy, Voronezh, and "Krasnyy Aksay" plants.

Most important in the solution of postwar agricultural problems is the electrification of agricultural processes. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, all the sovkhozes, MTS, selection, and experimental stations, as well as 50,000 kolkhozes are to be electrified. The capacity of rural electric installations will be raised to 2 million kilowatts.

In Sverdlovsk Oblast, the first in the USSR to carry out complete electrification of its kolkhoz villages, electricity is enjoyed by 2,108 kolkhozes, more than 900 cattle-raising farms, and 1,900 forges and workshops. Electric motors service the threshers, grain cleaners, straw cutters, silage cutters, flour mills, water-pumping stations, wood saws, and lathes in the kolkhoz workshops.

Electrification of agriculture in Moscow Oblast is to be completed in 1949. Agriculture is also being electrified in the Ukraine, in Chelyabinsk, Molotov, and Gor'kiy oblasts, and a number of other areas. A spirit of mutual cooperation has been developed in the industries responsible for the electrification of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The initiative of the Ural Machine-Building Plant for instance, has served as an example to the enterprises of Sverdlovsk Oblast to turn out more equipment than planned for the rural power stations of Kazakhstan. The trade unions of Moscow, likewise, are engaged in such work. The trade union councils must play the role of organizers during the initial stages of this activity.

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